



Serving as manager for the Statewide Transportation System
255 Westminster, Room 609, Providence, RI 02903

October 5, 2010

Notice to parent/guardian of:

Student Name **AM Bus number: xxxx PM bus number: xxxx**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

You are receiving this letter because your student rides a school bus that is included in the state's out-of-district statewide student transportation system. The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the **inclement weather policies** for this system. Many of the policies are consistent with your past transportation experience but some may be different because there are students from **multiple school districts** on many of the statewide buses. Please read the policies below. In order to avoid confusion and errors during inclement weather, it is imperative that schools, parents, and guardians understand and comply with the policies.

School Closing: If **either** your resident public school district **or** your student's destination school district is closed then there will be **no** school bus transportation provided that day. If your child's school of attendance makes the choice to stay open, even though the district it resides within is closed, then please note that there will be **no** school bus transportation provided that day.

School Delay: Students from multiple districts may ride on your child's bus in the morning, and if **any sending district** represented on your student's bus is delayed then all students riding that bus will be on a delayed schedule following the latest district delay time (i.e. If one district on your route has a one hour delay and another has a two hour delay, everyone on the route will follow the two hour delay.) Attached to this letter is a list of buses going to your child's school. Use your bus route number to find which other districts are on your child's route. Please keep this information available as **you must check the status of each of the school districts on your route** in order to determine if your child's bus will be delayed. The most up-to-date information for all of the statewide bus routes can be found on our website. Please always check the website for the latest information at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Finance/Transportation/default.aspx> and search for the Inclement Weather link on the right-hand side of the web page.

Early Release: Students from multiple school districts may also ride your child's bus home, and if **any receiving district** represented on your student's bus releases early then all students on that bus will be released early following the district with the earliest release time (i.e. If one district on your route releases at noon and another at 1:00pm, the bus will follow the noon release time.) Again, your student's particular bus and the districts represented on it are **listed** on the attached sheet. **You must check the status of each of the districts on your route** to determine if your child has an early release.

Also be aware that if the **district** your child's **school of attendance** resides in is released early, the students from your school riding statewide buses will be released early. Historically, special education schools have not put students on buses for early dismissal until a parent or contact has been reached, this same arrangement will continue on the statewide busing system. Statewide buses are directed to wait for a maximum of fifteen extra minutes for a contact to be reached. In

a situation where no contact has been made, the student will remain at the school and the parent must make arrangements with the school as to when the child will be picked up. Therefore, please make sure your school and TransPar have more than one working contact number for your student. For safety reasons, no statewide buses will be returning to schools once they have left the grounds and are en route.

Where to find Inclement Weather information:

Public school districts post school closings, delays and early releases on the following:

- NBC Channel 10 Providence weather page closing/delays tab or direct link
<http://www2.turnto10.com/jar/weather/>
- ABC Channel 6 Providence weather page closing tab or direct link
<http://www.abc6.com/weather/closings>
- Local radio stations

Please check these sites and/or your local radio stations for the status of districts and schools. Remember to check the status of the districts represented on your student's bus, as well as the district your child's school of attendance is located within, in order to determine your student's school bus transportation status. The school your child attends will also have this information and will know which districts are represented on a given bus route.

If you have any questions please call the TransPar System Manager Office at 401-222-5024.

Your child's safe transportation to and from school is our top priority.

Paul Larson, General Manager
TransPar Group